(d) Information on accident due to rash driving, untrained driving and driving without valid licence is not compiled by this Ministry. As per information available, 6.1% and 5.7% of the accidents on all roads in the country were caused by drunken driving during the year 2002 & 2003 respectively. Similarly, 21% and 23% of the accidents on all roads in the country were caused by overloading during the year 2002 & 2003 respectively.

(e) and (f) Enforcement of safety-related regulations comes under the purview of the State Governments. However, some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to check the road accidents besides highway design are as under:

* Two days refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles in the unorganized sector.
* Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
* Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media on all aspect of road safety.
* Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
* Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
* Organizing All India Essay competition on road safety for school children with a view to creating awareness.
* Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
* Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.,

Safety on National Highways

1004. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to set up a new regulatory body to oversee safety on the National Highways;

(b) whether Government are in the process of appointing a sub-committee that would recommend the structure and scope of this new organization

and also recommend suitable amendment that need to be made in the existing laws to make national highways safe for travel;

(c) if so, whether a decision has been made to set up a universal safety fund; and

(d) if so, what are other main terms that the Committee would consider and by what time this Committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A Committee has been constituted to deliberate and recommend on creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Regulations.

(c) The proposal before the Government is for a Dedicated Safety Fund and not a Universal Safety Fund.

(d) The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:-

(e) To assess the present magnitude of road traffic injuries and fatalities in India as a public health and economic problem;

(ii) To study international example of organizations for road safety and traffic regulation with a view to drawing lessons for India;

(iii) To propose a Road Safety Organisation at the Central Government level and recommend the functions and responsibilities of the proposed organization;

(IV) To suggest amendment of relevant traffic laws;

(v) To suggest the financing mechanisms for such an organization; and.

(vi) To suggest measure for rescue and relief of accident victim.

The Committee has been asked to give its recommendations by 31st January, 2006.

Waterways proposals from Maharashtra

1005. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted 13 proposals for Inland Water Transport waterways, costing about Rs. 118.04 crores;